

ASEPA Water Program – Laboratory Branch 3rd Quarter Report, FY07

I. Monthly Total Coliform Rule (TCR) Monitoring

All required monthly compliance monitoring was completed, including all necessary resampling. The monthly reports were submitted to the Safe Drinking Water Branch.

Water machines were sampled for this quarter in April 2007. One of 30 machines tested positive for total coliform (TC). This was the same machine that tested positive for TC last quarter. All machines tested negative for E. coli. Drinking water advisories in English and Samoan were posted on the machine that tested positive for TC. The store owner and machine operator (same person) was notified of the results. CDR Brad Rea and Mr. Ryan Tuatoo of the Safe Drinking Water Branch inspected this machine and discovered that the UV lamp bulb was not functioning and needed replacement. As a result of this, the machine was shut down and is currently out of service. Resampling will be done once repairs have been made. Reports of the test results were submitted to the American Samoa Department of Health (ASDOH).

This quarter, one local private water bottling company had turbidity problems (post-incubation). CDR Brad Rea, Mr. Ryan Tuatoo and the laboratory staff will meet again with the owner of this company, and perform intensive monitoring and facilities inspections until the turbidity issue is resolved.

II. ASEPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan

Beach samples were collected from 43 beaches weekly, and from 6 beaches on a monthly basis. To satisfy QA requirements, duplicate field samples were collected randomly per sampling event, and lab duplicates were also included in the processing of samples. Public advisories were issued in print, radio, and television media for all beach samples that exceeded the ASWQS.

III. ASEPA Stream Water Quality Monitoring Plan

The same 8 streams from last quarter were routinely sampled once a month during this quarter. The 8 streams are Amate Stream in Fagamalo, Maloara Stream in Malota, Vaitele Stream in Poloa, Malivai_Tofu Stream in Vatia, Agasili Stream in Fagasa, Amaua Stream in Amaua, Leaufu Stream in Leone, and Leaveave Stream in Tafuna/Nu'uuli.

The laboratory continued providing technical assistance with stream monitoring activities throughout this whole quarter. Water samples were analyzed for levels of enterococci. Using the YSI sonde 6600, stream water was also measured for pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), and turbidity. Additional water samples were collected for nutrient analyses at AECOS Laboratory.

IV. Maintain Laboratory Certification

Next quarter in August, the tri-annual laboratory certification audit will be conducted by Mr. Andrew Lincoff, R9 Microbiology Lab Certification Officer. The lab has been preparing for this audit and continued to perform activities necessary to maintain its status as a fully certified drinking water laboratory.

V. Annual Individual Demonstration of Proficiency

Annual IDPs for FY2007 will be performed next quarter for all 4 analysts.

VI. Village PWS Chemical Monitoring (3 villages under AO)

ASEPA is still awaiting the results from AECOS, Inc. Labs in Hawaii for the Village PWS Chemical Monitoring Project conducted during the 1st Quarter of FY2007.

VII. Beach Monitoring Special Projects

No current projects are underway at this time.

VIII. ASPA NPDES Permit Compliance Monitoring

ASPA wastewater laboratory will be required to perform regular proficiency evaluation Quality Control tests to verify the accuracy of their NPDES compliance monitoring data.

IX. Leptospirosis NPS Study

No current projects are underway at this time. Related projects, including piggery compliance activities fall, under the Water Quality Branch.